

Active

ect #: E-25-M93 Cost share #: Rev #: 0
er # : 10/24-6-R6785-0A0 Center shr #: OCA file #:
ract#: SS89-1956 Mod #: Work type : RES
e # : Document : PO
Contract entity: GTRC

rojects ? : Y
project #:

ect unit: ME Unit code: 02.010.126
ect director(s):
KAHN B ME (404)894-3776

sor/division names: SOUTHERN COMPANY SERVICES /
sor/division codes: 218 / 025

d period: 890801 to 900131 (performance) 900131 (reports)

Amount	New this change	Total to date
Contract value	14,804.00	14,804.00
Funded	14,804.00	14,804.00
sharing amount		0.00

subcontracting plan apply ? : N

e: POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DOWNHOLE GAMMA-RAY LOGGING

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION DATA

contact: William F. Brown 894-4820

nsor technical contact Sponsor issuing office

PATEL	JOHN BLAND
(5)877-7697	(205)870-6928
SOUTHERN COMPANY SERVICES, INC.	SOUTHERN COMPANY SERVICES, INC.
. BOX 2625	P.O. BOX 2625
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202	BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

urity class (U,C,S,TS) : U ONR resident rep. is ACO (Y/N): N
se priority rating : NA NA supplemental sheet
pment title vests with: Sponsor GIT
NE PROPOSED

Administrative comments -
ITIATION OF E-25-M93. FINAL PMT. OF \$3,000 WILL BE WITHHELD BY SPONSOR
TIL ACCEPTANCE OF A FINAL REPORT IS RECEIVED.



3:56 SUBPROJECTS OF MAIN PROJECT E-25-M93 08/11/89
ect number Spon/Div Project Director Project Unit
Total Contract Total Funded

5-633	218/025	WAMPLER J M	GEO SCI
		11,725.00	11,725.00

0:24

OCA PAD INITIATION - PROJECT HEADER INFORMATION

08/11/89

SUB UNDER

E-25-M93

Active

ect #: G-35-633

Cost share #:

Rev #: 0

er #: 10/24-6-R6785-0A1

Center shr #:

OCA file #:

ract#: SS89-1956

Mod #:

Work type : RES

e #:

Document : PO

Contract entity: GTRC

projects ? : N

project #: E-25-M93

ect unit:

GEO SCI

Unit code: 02.010.140

ect director(s):

WAMPLER J M

GEO SCI

(404)894-3893

sor/division names: SOUTHERN COMPANY SERVICES

/

sor/division codes: 218

/ 025

d period: 890801 to 900131 (performance) 900131 (reports)

sor amount

New this change

Total to date

Contract value

11,725.00

11,725.00

Funded

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11,725.00

sharing amount

0.00

subcontracting plan apply ? : N

e: POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DOWNHOLE GAMMA-RAY LOGGING

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION DATA

contact: William F. Brown

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nsor technical contact

Sponsor issuing office

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BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

rity class (U,C,S,TS) : U

ONR resident rep. is ACO (Y/N): N

nse priority rating : NA

NA supplemental sheet

pment title vests with: Sponsor

GIT

NE PROPOSED

nistrative comments -

ITIATION OF SUBPROJECT G-35-633 UNDER MAIN PROJECT E-25-M93/KAHN/ME.

NOTICE OF PROJECT CLOSEOUT

Closeout Notice Date 07/18/90

Contract No. E-25-M93 _____

Center No. 10/24-6-R6785-OA0_

Contract Director KAHN B _____

School/Lab MECH ENGR _____

Contractor SOUTHERN COMPANY SERVICES/ _____

Contract/Grant No. SS89-1956 _____ Contract Entity GTRC

Contract No. _____

Project Title POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DOWNHOLE GAMMA-RAY LOGGING _____

Contractive Completion Date 900701 (Performance) 900701 (Reports)

Contract Actions Required:	Y/N	Date Submitted
Final Invoice or Copy of Final Invoice	Y	_____
Final Report of Inventions and/or Subcontracts	N	_____
Government Property Inventory & Related Certificate	N	_____
Classified Material Certificate	N	_____
License and Assignment	N	_____
Other _____	N	_____

Comments _____

Project Under Main Project No. _____

Sponsoring Project No. _____

Contribution Required:

Project Director	Y
Administrative Network Representative	Y
Financial Accounting/Grants and Contracts	Y
Procurement/Supply Services	Y
Research Property Management	Y
Research Security Services	N
Reports Coordinator (OCA)	Y
RC	Y
Project File	Y
Other _____	N
_____	N

NOTICE OF PROJECT CLOSEOUT (SUBPROJECTS)

Closeout Notice Date 07/18/90

Project No. E-25-M93

Center No. 10/24-6-R6785-0A0_

Director KAHN B _____

School/Lab MECH ENGR _____

SOUTHERN COMPANY SERVICES/ _____

# G-35-633	PD WAMPLER J M	Unit 02.010.140	T
SS89-1956	MOD# ADMIN.	E & A SCI	*
10/24-6-R6785-0A1	Main proj # E-25-M93	OCA CO WFB	
SOUTHERN COMPANY SER	/	218/025	
IAL FOR IMPROV			
S90801 End 900701	Funded 11,725.00	Contract	11,725.00

indicates the project is a subproject.

indicates the project is active and being updated.

indicates the project is currently active.

indicates the project has been terminated.

indicates a terminated project that is being modified.

POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DOWNHOLE GAMMA-RAY LOGGING

First Bi-Monthly Progress Report

to

Southern Company Services, Inc.
P. O. Box 2625
Birmingham, Alabama 35202

October 6, 1989

Project No. E-25-M93

Bernd Kahn and J. M. Wampler, Principal Investigators

Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia 30332

In order to identify state-of-the-art gamma-ray spectral logging techniques and neutron activation or other activation techniques that may be useful for the purposes identified by the sponsor, we have begun a systematic search of recently published technical literature on well-logging techniques and applications and have begun to obtain information about commercially available logging equipment from the manufacturers. The search of the literature, which is the primary responsibility of graduate research assistant Huizhen Gao, employs two different search methods: 1) a search for relevant books and articles listed in databases available through the Georgia Tech Electronic Library, and 2) manual searching of recent issues of periodicals that we have identified as the most important carriers of information about new developments in well-logging. Ms. Anna Butler has taken primary responsibility for solicitation of information from manufacturers of well-logging equipment, and she has made available her personal library of well-logging literature to supplement the literature available in the Georgia Tech Library.

The Georgia Tech Library has acquired a number of recently published books on well-logging and has current subscriptions to all of the more important journals that have articles on well-logging techniques. Two important new journals appear to be particularly important, and so we will be manually searching all issues of these journals for articles that may be relevant to the goals of this project. Nuclear Geophysics (Part E of Int. J.

radiat. appl. instrum.) began publication in 1987 and has articles about a variety of applications of nuclear techniques, both within and without the petroleum industry. SPE Formation Evaluation began publication in 1985 and has many articles on current techniques used in well logging in the petroleum industry. The petroleum industry has provided the major economic incentive for the development of downhole measurement techniques, so new developments in that industry may often be relevant to the work of this project.

By using databases available in the Georgia Tech Electronic Library, we have developed an ability to search large databases for articles and other publications of interest using keywords. Ms. Gao has searched several databases, in particular the Applied Science & Technology Index (ASTI), The Engineering Index (ENGI), INSPEC (INSP), and the Trade & Industry Index (TRND), for recently published articles that would be important for this project. She is developing a good understanding of the combinations of keywords that are most profitable in such a search, so that when we turn to databases such as GEO-REF, for use of which a fee will be charged, the cost of searching can be kept rather low. Included as an addendum to this report is a listing of a bibliography that Ms. Gao has prepared from her search of the databases listed above. She has prepared this bibliography by personally reviewing the citations obtained in the keyword searches and deleting articles that would be of no use for the purposes of this project.

We are fortunate to have the assistance of Anna Butler for the project. Ms. Butler has considerable experience as a professional well-log analyst in the petroleum industry, and she has maintained her interest in the field through current subscriptions to trade journals. She is compiling brochures and other literature from manufacturers of logging equipment and is helping us identify other important sources of information. We are in the process of obtaining the Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Borehole Geophysics for Minerals, Geotechnical, and Ground Water Applications, which she has suggested as a particularly important source of information for this project. She has also learned that a third symposium on this topic was held recently, and she will help us obtain whatever information may be available about the proceedings of this most recent symposium.

We expect that the process of obtaining relevant literature and information from manufacturers will be essentially complete a few weeks hence. The process of evaluation of the information in the books, articles, and brochures, in order to judge how logging techniques might be used in or modified for use in the applications identified as important to the sponsor, is just beginning. We should be well into the process of evaluation by the end of October, at which time virtually all of the available literature should be on hand.

POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DOWNHOLE GAMMA-RAY LOGGING

Second Bi-Monthly Progress Report

to

Southern Company Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 2625
Birmingham, Alabama 35202

December 22, 1989

Project No. E-25-M93

Bernd Kahn and J. M. Wampler, Principal Investigators

Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia 30332

INTRODUCTION

The following pages comprise an annotated bibliography of recent papers in the technical literature that we have identified as the most important to the evaluation of the potential for improvement of downhole gamma ray logging. This bibliography represents the status of our work on the project essentially as of the end of November 1989.

Because of an illness that began just as the fall academic quarter was ending, the investigator [JMW] who had accepted the responsibility to compile this annotated bibliography was unable to complete this report at the time intended. Consequently, the report is being submitted some two weeks later than originally anticipated, the annotations are not as thorough as they might have been, and the format of the bibliography is not as refined as we had hoped. We have not yet been able to include in the comments some of the specific items of information that have been requested, such as notes on the companies that provide the equipment and services.

In a final project report that we will be preparing in the near future, we will resubmit the annotated bibliography in a laser-printed format with extended comments that address particularly the importance of each paper in the context of the goals of this research project. Some additional papers that we have found to be important will be included in the final bibliography. We will include the information that we have been able to obtain on the availability of equipment and services. Most important, we will include our evaluation of the potential of nuclear logging techniques for the particular applications that are of interest to the sponsor, with particular attention to the measurement of the chemical elements that have been indicated by the sponsor to be of special interest.

Potential for Improvement of Downhole Gamma-Ray Logging

An Annotated Bibliography

ORGANIZATION OF CONTENTS

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1.1. Nuclear logging tools
- 1.2. Non-nuclear logging devices
- 1.3. Electronics and components
- 1.4. Improvements and modifications

INTERPRETATION

- 2.1. Inversion of nuclear spectral data
- 2.2. Algorithms and models
- 2.3. Calibration

APPLICATIONS

- 3.1. Elemental analysis
- 3.2. Mineralogical composition and physical properties of rock
- 3.3. Character of subsurface fluids
- 3.4. Recent developments

REVIEWS

POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DOWN-HOLE GAMMA-RAY LOGGING

Final Report

to

**Southern Company Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 2625
Birmingham, Alabama 35202**

March 30, 1990

Project No. E-25-M93

Bernd Kahn and J. M. Wampler, Principal Investigators

**Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia 30332**

1. INTRODUCTION

In the task of compiling information on gamma-ray logging techniques that are applicable to the research interests of the sponsor, we are fortunate to have a relatively recent monograph by A. W. Wylie (1984) that provides an excellent introduction to the various nuclear techniques that have been used for quantitative measurement of radioactivity and elemental abundances in subsurface rocks by instruments that may be lowered in boreholes. The book also provides a well-written and well-illustrated introduction to the nuclear physical principles on which these techniques are based, as well as a brief introduction to the geochemistry of the naturally occurring gamma emitters.

In our review of the literature we have focused primarily on articles that have appeared since 1984, when Wylie's book was published. We have used several databases available in the "Georgia Tech Electronic Library" in a search for relevant articles and books published during the last several years. These databases include publications in the areas of engineering and mainstream physical science, but they are not thorough in their coverage of geological literature. Therefore we have also conducted a search of the GEOREF database in order to find papers on geological applications of the nuclear techniques that have been published during the past ten years. We should also note that the period since publication of Wylie's book includes the advent of the journal *Nuclear Geophysics*, which is an excellent source of information about current techniques for subsurface nuclear measurements. The *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science* has proved to be of comparable value as a source of recent articles on nuclear well-logging techniques.

In our compilation of information we have found it necessary to go beyond the area referred to in the original research objectives as "gamma-ray spectral logging," because there are other techniques that may be required to obtain information necessary for accurate calibration of the gamma-ray spectral techniques and because there are some cases among the elements (and radionuclides) that are of interest to the sponsor where other techniques are necessary in order to detect the species of interest. In the following summary of logging techniques, therefore, some other techniques are included to complement the gamma-ray spectral techniques.

This report comprises a summary of the well-logging methods that may be useful to the sponsor, a description of the availability and cost of equipment and services for gamma-ray spectral logging (particularly in respect to tools that employ high-resolution detectors), and recommendations for future work. Section 5 is a list of references cited in the body of the report.

The final section of the report is an annotated bibliography of recent publications that we consider to be of particular importance to the sponsor. These publications include discussions of instruments for nuclear well logging (types of sources and detectors, optimum applications in terms of logging (travel) rates and geometric relations between radioactive sources and detectors, newly developed instruments); use of other information (density, porosity, rock constituents) in the analysis of data; algorithms for data analysis; and applications of nuclear data (attenuation factors, gamma-ray energies, neutron cross sections, half-lives, etc.) in quantitative analysis by gamma-ray spectral measurements. The publications are arranged in a topical order according to the following list of topics and sub-topics:

Instrumentation

- Nuclear logging tools

- Electronics and components

- Improvements and modifications

Interpretation

- Inversion of nuclear spectral data

- Algorithms and models

- Calibration

Applications

- Elemental analysis

- Mineralogical composition and physical properties of rock

- Character of subsurface fluids

- Recent developments

Reviews

Books

Some of the papers in the bibliography could well fit under several of the topics in the list above. In each such case we have chosen to list the article under the topic that seems to be most appropriate, based on the overall content of the paper.

We have included in the annotated bibliography the published abstract for each paper that has such an abstract, and for nearly all of the papers we have added comments written either by J. M. Wampler or by Graduate Research Assistant Huizhen Gao. (Ms. Gao's comments have been edited by J. M. Wampler in respect to usage of English but not generally in respect to content.) Initials are used to identify the author of each set of comments.

Additionally we will provide for the sponsor (under separate cover) copies of those articles in the annotated bibliography (and others in the list of references cited) which we may so provide without infringement of the copyright of the publisher. Such articles are those that are not subject to copyright in the United States, other articles for which compensation to the publisher may be made through the Copyright Clearance Center, and articles in published conference proceedings that we have purchased. Along with these papers, we will send an alphabetical listing of all of the papers we have found in our search of the well-logging literature that are, in our judgement, possibly relevant to the interests of the sponsor.

2. SUMMARY OF LOGGING METHODS

1. Nuclear Logging Methods that Provide Direct Measures of Elemental Abundance

1.1. Natural gamma-ray logging (and detection of artificial gamma emitters)

1.1.1. High-energy gamma-ray spectrometry

Tools for measurement of natural gamma-ray activity normally employ NaI(Tl) scintillation detectors since these have greater sensitivity than the higher-resolution germanium detectors and since the spectral resolution of the scintillation detectors is adequate to resolve radiation from the three major long-lived radionuclides (actually from short-lived daughters, in the cases of uranium and thorium). Scintillation detectors may also be useful for detection of certain artificial radionuclides in the subsurface environment.

The higher resolution of germanium detectors is required in order to measure uranium when there is not equilibrium throughout the decay series (Tanner, 1982). Such detectors may also be necessary to distinguish certain artificial radionuclides in the subsurface. Although the efficiency of such detectors is considerably less than that of scintillation detectors, the generally much smaller background corrections required when resolution is high means that one may obtain satisfactory results with lower efficiency.

Elements that may be measured by high-energy gamma-ray spectrometry are potassium, thorium (by measurement of 2.614 MeV radiation from ^{208}Tl), and uranium (by measurement of 1.764 MeV radiation from ^{214}Bi ; Wylie, 1984, Ch. 2, Ch. 9). If the uranium decay series is not in equilibrium, uranium may be measured by using a high-resolution detector to distinguish the gamma-radiation of $^{234\text{m}}\text{Pa}$, which should always be in equilibrium with ^{238}U (Tanner, 1982). A high-resolution detector would also permit direct detection of low-intensity gamma radiation from ^{235}U . Because high-resolution detectors have relatively low efficiency, and because the relative intensities of the emission lines of $^{234\text{m}}\text{Pa}$ and ^{235}U are low, the time required to measure uranium directly (or almost directly in the case of $^{234\text{m}}\text{Pa}$) is much longer than the time required

to measure the activity of ^{214}Bi . Unless uranium is present in greater-than-normal amounts in subsurface rocks, direct measurement of the element could be done only at extremely low logging speeds or, more reasonably, by stationary measurements.

The only element within the natural decay series that was on the list of elements of interest to the sponsor is radium. The radiation from ^{214}Bi should more closely reflect the distribution of radium than that of uranium when these are out of equilibrium. However, the mobility of radon may be such that the ^{214}Bi radiation may not provide a very useful measure of radium distribution. The only way to measure radium directly by gamma-ray spectrometry is to measure with a high-resolution detector the energy at 186 keV due to the superimposed weak lines from ^{235}U and ^{226}Ra and then calculate the contribution of radium by difference, having determined the uranium activity independently. This procedure may not be of value in cases where the radium concentration is considerably below the equilibrium value.

A variety of sondes for natural gamma-ray spectrometry are in use by various well-logging services, including scintillation-detector tools of sufficiently small diameter to be used within two-inch tubing. EG&G ORTEC offers a shallow-hole probe having a coaxial germanium detector, which may be used in holes having three-inch or greater diameter to depths up to 100 feet. Sondes having germanium detectors that will operate at greater depth are not routinely available, but such devices can be manufactured to order. The necessary cooling of the detector in such a sonde may be provided by melting cryogen (e.g., melting propane) or by liquid nitrogen (Wylie, 1984, p321 ff.); for shallow boreholes (not more than a hundred meters deep) liquid nitrogen would be the coolant of choice. Sondes having high-resolution detectors have not been made with a diameter small enough for use in two-inch tubing, because the sensitivity of such a small detector is not considered to be adequate. However, one might consider use of such a detector in shallow boreholes where extremely low logging speeds or stationary measurements would be reasonable.

1.1.2. Low-energy gamma-ray spectrometry

Low-energy gamma-ray spectrometry would be required to detect certain of the intermediates in the natural decay series, which would be important when the series are not in equilibrium (Tanner, 1982). Certain artificial radionuclides might also be detected with such a spectrometer, which requires a semiconductor detector in order that the low-energy peaks may be distinguished from background. The effective range for such

gamma-rays is much less than that of high-energy gamma rays, so that this technique may not be useful in cased or water-filled holes (unless the species of interest is in solution). Unless there is interest in measurement of intermediates in the natural decay series (other than radium) or of artificial radionuclides that may only be measured by low-energy gamma-ray spectrometry, it is not evident that such a tool would be necessary for logging natural and artificial radioactivity underground.

1.2. Prompt gamma-ray spectrometry

The term **prompt gamma radiation** refers to the virtually instantaneous gamma radiation that occurs when neutrons interact with nuclei to produce nuclear excited states. Such excited states may result from inelastic scattering of fast neutrons or from neutron-capture reactions, which largely involve thermal neutrons. Tools for prompt gamma-ray spectrometry include a source of neutrons and a high-energy gamma-ray detector. The neutron source may be either an isotopic source or a neutron generator. A neutron generator has the advantage that the neutrons may be pulsed so that electronic gating may be used to separate the radiation produced by interactions of fast neutrons from that produced by capture of thermal neutrons (Grau and Schweitzer, 1987). However, more interfering reactions occur when generator-produced neutrons are used, since they have higher energy than neutrons from isotopic sources. [Better information on rock porosity may be obtained with a pulsed neutron source than with an isotopic source (Stromswold and others, 1989). Such information is essential for accurate estimates of elemental abundances from neutron-induced gamma-ray spectra.] Scintillation detectors are used for prompt-gamma spectrometry in well logging for the petroleum industry. Since these detectors have relatively low resolution, a great deal more information about element concentrations may be obtained if a pulsed neutron source is used than if an isotopic source is used, but the necessarily greater complexity of such tools means greater cost. Use of a germanium detector would provide better accuracy in the determination of elemental abundances and would also allow this technique to be applied to a somewhat wider range of elements than is possible with a scintillation detector. Furthermore, with a high-resolution detector, the advantages of a pulsed neutron source relative to an isotopic source are not so important, so that there may be a considerable saving in cost of equipment (aside from the somewhat higher cost of the detector itself).

1.2.1. Prompt gamma radiation from inelastic scattering of fast neutrons

Prompt gamma rays produced by inelastic scattering of fast neutrons provide the best way to measure carbon in subsurface rocks and the only way to measure oxygen. Although oxygen is not on the sponsor's list of elements of interest, it is the most abundant element in most rocks and its quantitative measurement provides information about the lithology of subsurface formations that may be indispensable for accurate calibration of measurements of other elements. The carbon/oxygen ratio is an important key to identification of coal and limestone beds.

Because of the importance of the carbon-oxygen ratio in oil-well logging, a variety of devices are available for carbon/oxygen logging (Bateman, 1985b, pp. 10-11). Dresser Atlas uses a 3 7/8-inch diameter device for carbon/oxygen logging. Schlumberger Well Services measures carbon-oxygen ratios with a tool known as IGT (inelastic gamma tool). These devices, which count pulses from scintillation detectors in several energy windows but do not record the entire gamma-ray spectrum, also provide information about ratios of certain other elements that are normally present as major constituents of the subsurface rock or fluid and which produce high-intensity gamma radiation by capture of thermal neutrons (see below). These elements are hydrogen, silicon, calcium, iron, chlorine, and sulfur. The logs obtained with such tools permit one to distinguish coal and carbonate rocks from ordinary rocks and to estimate the amount of silicates in the coal (ash content) and in the carbonate. The sensitivity for sulfur is not adequate to be useful for measuring sulfur in coal unless long-duration stationary measurements are done (see below).

1.2.2. Prompt gamma radiation from neutron-capture reactions

Prompt gamma rays produced by neutron capture reactions are generally useful for determination of the major constituents of rock. The elements that may be determined include silicon, calcium, iron, magnesium, and aluminum, which are commonly major constituents of rock, and carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, and sulfur, which are major constituents of certain kinds of rock. Other minor or trace constituents of rock that might be determined by their neutron-capture gamma-rays include vanadium, chromium, manganese, nickel, copper, boron, and cadmium (which are on the list of elements that are of interest to the sponsor).

Techniques have been developed to deconvolute the prompt gamma-ray spectra obtained with scintillation detectors, so that the abundances of the elements that are the major contributors to these spectra may be determined (Grau and Schweitzer, 1987). Such techniques promise to be of major importance in oil-well logging where knowledge of the abundances of major rock constituents can be of great importance but knowledge of minor- element abundances is not important and where harsh environments in deep wells make use of high-resolution detectors impractical.

In situations where a high-resolution detector may be used, it should be possible to determine the relative concentrations of the major constituents of subsurface rock more accurately with such a detector than with a scintillation detector, and it should be possible to distinguish the spectral lines of minor constituents that have either a high neutron-capture cross section (e.g., vanadium) or which may be present in greater-than-normal concentrations. For elements such as boron and cadmium that have extremely high capture cross sections but extremely low normal abundances in rocks, unusually high concentrations would be easily detectable. The ability of a logging tool to detect and measure elements other than hydrogen, silicon, calcium, iron, and chlorine (or which the capture gamma radiation is normally relatively intense) depends strongly on the time factor. Stationary measurements of long duration can maximize the ability to detect minor elements. Senftle and Mikesell (1987) have shown that sulfur in coal can be determined with reasonable precision from ratios of spectral intensities of gamma rays produced by neutron capture by sulfur and carbon, if stationary measurements of long duration (20-60 minutes) are used.

1.3. Activation gamma-ray spectrometry

Many radionuclides produced by neutron capture (or by other reactions with neutrons) decay with the emission of gamma rays of sufficient energy that the activation products in subsurface rocks might be detected by gamma-ray spectrometry. Although neutron-activation techniques are not easily adaptable for continuous logging, and so have not been used routinely in well-logging operations, such techniques do provide an opportunity for measurement of a number of elements that cannot be measured by other nuclear techniques. Generally, because of the wide range in half-lives of the activation products, a particular activation procedure can be optimal for only one or a few species. Furthermore only a few elements have both an appropriate half-life (a few

minutes) and sufficiently great (normal) abundance and/or reaction cross section that a continuous-logging mode can be employed for their determination by neutron-activation analysis (Wylie, 1984, Ch. 12).

Optimal measurement of the widest possible range of elements by neutron activation would require that widely different periods of neutron irradiation be followed by comparably variable periods for acquisition of spectral data. Stationary measurements rather than continuous logging would be necessary. Such requirements may be impractical for work in deep holes, but work in shallow boreholes is not nearly so restrictive in this respect. When the thickness of the zone to be explored is only a few tens of meters and when tools can be lowered into and removed from a hole quickly, it should be practical to use stationary measurements for neutron-activation work and to design them so that they can be effective for more than just a few elements.

Mikesell and Senftle (1988) have said that about 30 chemical elements are amenable to detection and measurement by borehole neutron activation, but their statement refers to those elements determinable from their prompt gamma rays as well as those where a nuclide that emits delayed gamma rays is produced. Published lists of elements that are determinable by neutron activation in the latter sense (delayed gamma rays) are different from one paper to another, because the possibility of detecting or measuring a particular element will depend on many variable factors (especially, intensity of the neutron source, period of irradiation, period of data acquisition, resolution of the detector, and, of course, abundance of the element in the material to be analysed). Aluminum, manganese, and vanadium will be found on all such lists because they each have a favorable set of values of the important properties abundance, reaction cross section, and half-life of the activation product. Other elements (from the list of elements identified as of interest to the sponsor) that should be detectable by (delayed) neutron activation are sodium, chlorine, magnesium, and calcium (Hertzog, 1988). Copper, cadmium, selenium, barium, molybdenum, and uranium should also be detectable by this method (Wylie, 1984, pp. 196-198), particularly when they are present in greater-than-normal concentrations.

Other elements might be detected by neutron activation if special equipment or procedures are used. Detection of cobalt would be possible with high sensitivity if a low-energy gamma-ray spectrometer is used. Fluorine and possibly even lead might be detected from very short-lived nuclides (half-lives less than 10 seconds) produced by neutron reactions during very brief irradiations. Some elements with rather long-lived

activation products (for example, arsenic) might be detectable if exceptionally long counting periods were possible. **Although there are many possibilities for detection of elements by neutron-activation analysis, it must be emphasized that many of the elements on the sponsor's list of elements of interest occur in ordinary rocks only in traces (Krauskopf, 1979, pp. 544-546). For these it is not clear that activation analysis would be useful, except in a few very favorable cases.**

Generally, isotopic sources of neutrons such as ^{252}Cf are preferable to neutron generators for neutron-activation work, because the high-energy neutrons from a generator cause too many interfering reactions (Senftle and Mikesell, 1987). The greater rate of production of neutrons from a generator may be useful in cases where it is necessary to activate a long-lived nuclide; in such a case the high-energy neutrons would not interfere in the severe ways that they do when short-lived nuclides are to be measured. NaI(Tl) scintillation detectors can be used for particular applications (Senftle and Mikesell, 1987), but high-resolution germanium detectors will provide a much better capability to resolve the components of the gamma-ray spectra produced by the large number of activation products that will be produced by neutron activation of rocks.

Senftle and Mikesell (1987) have shown that most of the concern about accuracy of calibration of tools for borehole neutron-activation analysis (involving both prompt and delayed gamma-rays) can be avoided in situations where it is appropriate to use what they call the **nuclear ratio technique**. In the applications that they have described, the relative abundance of one element is determined relative to that of another element that is a major constituent of the subsurface rock. If the absolute abundance of the major element may be estimated with reasonable accuracy, and if it is activated by the same portion of the neutron energy spectrum as is the element whose concentration is variable, then the nuclear ratio provides a basis for a reasonable estimate of the absolute abundance of the latter element. This technique is not intended to provide absolute abundances of high accuracy, but rather it was suggested by the authors to be a very useful technique in applications such as exploration for minerals where high accuracy is not needed. It should be noted, however, that the nuclear ratio technique could provide a basis for **high precision** measurements of temporal changes in the amounts of certain elements in the subsurface environment. For example, if nuclear ratios of manganese and aluminum were determined at one time and then again at a later time at the same subsurface point, any differences could reasonably be attributed to a variation in the manganese content of the rock or soil. Aluminum is a relatively

immobile, major constituent of rock and soil whose abundance at a particular point below ground should not change appreciably over the lifetime of a test well (assuming that the borehole is physically stable).

1.4. Photoneutron measurement

The only nuclear well-logging technique capable of measuring beryllium, is measurement of photoneutrons produced when gamma rays are absorbed by beryllium nuclei. The method has the capability to clearly distinguish beryllium-bearing zones when ore concentrations are of the order of 1% beryllium, with uncertainties of 0.003% beryllium if a strong (50 Ci) ^{124}Sb source is used (Wylie, 1984, pp. 265-266). Since there are no interfering reactions, it would appear that this technique might be useful for measurement of beryllium as a trace element at the part-per-million level, if extremely slow logging rates or stationary measurements were employed.

1.5. X-ray fluorescence techniques

A downhole x-ray fluorescence device (Wylie, 1984, pp. 247-259) might permit measurement of a number of elements that are of interest to the sponsor and which are not practically detectable by any other nuclear technique. Such elements are arsenic, bromine, lead, mercury, and strontium. The range of x-radiation is very small compared to that of energetic gamma radiation, however, so the technique could only be used to measure elements in a very thin layer of rock at the walls of uncased boreholes. Excepting strontium, the normal abundances of these elements in rock are so low that they could not be measured adequately with this technique. An x-ray fluorescence technique might be used to measure some of the major species in solution in water without interference from materials in the rock. In particular, calcium and chlorine in solution might be measured in this way.

1.6. Cherenkov radiation measurement

Larsen and others (1989) have described a detector developed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory for field surveillance of radioactivity in groundwater in wells that are three inches or more in diameter. The detector senses Cherenkov radiation produced by energetic beta particles and (indirectly) by gamma rays in an aqueous medium, but has little capability to distinguish among different sources of such energetic radiation that might be present in subsurface water.

Although Larsen and others (1989) have suggested that the detector would be useful to measure ^{90}Sr when it is in equilibrium with its daughter ^{90}Y , it seems unlikely that ^{90}Y would be in equilibrium with its parent in groundwater. However, in cased wells where flow is nil over a period of days, ^{90}Y may remain in the vicinity of its parent.

When no artificial radionuclides are present, most of the important species that emit energetic beta particles are nuclides that follow radium in the natural decay series of uranium and thorium. (An exception is $^{234\text{m}}\text{Pa}$.) Since most of these energetic-beta emitters form and decay rather quickly (mostly within one hour in the uranium series and mostly within one day in the thorium series) after the decay of their radium or radon precursors, the Cherenkov detector might provide useful information about the levels of radium and radon in water within cased wells where the water has not been flowing. The detector itself could not distinguish between daughters of ^{222}Rn (uranium series) and daughters of thorium-series radium, but stationary measurements repeated over a period of time (one hour or less) before and after degassing of the well water to remove radon might allow activities of the two different series to be differentiated.

2. Nuclear Measurements that Provide Information on Physical Properties

2.1. Gamma-ray backscattering

Measurement of back-scattered gamma rays has long been used to obtain information about the density of the materials in the subsurface environment. The gamma radiation appropriate for this purpose is in the energy range 0.3 to 1 MeV, where Compton scattering is the predominant mechanism of attenuation of the radiation. The degree of Compton backscattering is a direct function of the electron density of the material rather than of the mass density, but mass density is very nearly proportional to electron density in common rocks. Hydrogen-rich materials such as water and coal have a ratio of mass density to electron density that is smaller than that of common rocks, and rare rocks that are exceptionally rich in heavy elements have a larger-than-normal value for this ratio (Wylie, 1984, p. 219 ff.).

There are a variety of ways to enhance the amount of information that can be obtained from gamma-ray scattering. Most important of these appear to be the simultaneous use of detectors that are at different distances from the source and the use of spectral information about the scattered radiation rather than just the total count rate. The intensity of scattered radiation at low energies where photo-electric absorption is

important is quite sensitive to the abundance of heavy elements (Ellis, 1988; Gaddeken and others, 1988). The spectral information can also be used to determine variations in borehole diameter in cases where it is impractical to use mechanical calipers (Wylie, 1984, pp. 231-233), a capability that may be quite important when boreholes have been cased.

In respect to the goals of the sponsor of this research, the main benefit that would be obtainable from a gamma-ray backscattering log would be the information on porosity of the rock, which is of some value in estimating thermal-neutron fluxes as a function of distance from the source in neutron-activation work. Should the sponsor also be interested in obtaining information about the hydrogeological properties of the subsurface rock, there would be greater reason to use gamma-ray backscattering logs.

2.2. Neutron scattering

Logging tools that measure scattered neutrons can be designed so that they are virtually specific for hydrogen, as long as no elements that strongly absorb thermal neutrons are present (Wylie, 1984, p. 151). The information about the hydrogen content of the medium, and about the distribution of thermal and epithermal neutrons within the medium surrounding a neutron source, can be enhanced by using detectors that respond selectively to thermal and epithermal neutrons and by using detectors at different distances from the source. The sort of information that neutron-neutron probes provide about the diffusion of neutrons in the subsurface medium would appear to be essential in any program in which absolute abundances of elements are to be determined directly by prompt gamma-ray logging or by neutron-activation logging. Recently developed instruments for neutron porosity logging (Stromswold and others, 1989) and new techniques for interpretation of neutron porosity logs (Galford and others, 1989; Partner, 1989) promise to make such information more accurate than it has been in the past.

3. Non-Nuclear Logging Methods

3.1. Caliper logging

Information on variations in borehole diameter is essential in any program where gamma-ray spectral intensities are to be used to directly calculate absolute abundances of elements in subsurface rock. In uncased holes, mechanical calipers (which might

se a radiometric principle for readout; Wylie, 1984, p. 263) can be used to obtain information on variations in borehole diameter. But the same information can be obtained more conveniently with a well-designed gamma-ray backscattering tool, which could be useful in cased holes as well as uncased ones.

3.2. Other logging techniques

Logging tools of many kinds are used in the petroleum industry to determine physical characteristics of formations, formation fluids, borehole casing, and borehole fluids, as well as to monitor fluid flow in producing wells (Bateman, 1985a, 1985b). Most of these specialized logging methods would not be useful to enhance the accuracy of chemical information obtained by gamma-ray spectral logging, particularly when the work is done in cased holes. Several of these methods are worth mentioning, however. Temperature logs that record very slight changes in temperature of the water in a well can provide information about water flow at low rates. Flowmeters can also be used to measure water flow. (Information about water flow rates would be quite important whenever measurements of radioactive daughters in water are to serve as an indirect measurement of a longer-lived radioactive precursor.) Inductive logging provides a means of determining conductivity of formation fluids with a tool in a cased borehole. Data from an induction log could be useful in establishing variations in salinity of groundwater, although there are nuclear techniques that could serve the same purpose (Charbucinski and others, 1988).

Many of the non-nuclear logging techniques that are used in the oil industry, including particularly electrical and acoustic methods as well as those methods mentioned in the preceding few paragraphs, have proven to be useful in hydrogeological investigations (for example; Crowder and others, 1988; Paillet and Kim, 1987; Paillet and others, 1987). There are also a few techniques, such as televiwer logging, that are not normally useful in oilfield work but are useful in hydrogeology. It has not been our purpose to review such well-logging methods for the sponsor. However, we should point out that while hydrogeological information may not be necessary for interpretation of the accuracy of the chemical data obtained by nuclear logging methods (except as noted in the preceding few paragraphs), it may be very important to interpretation of the geochemical significance of the data on elements that are mobile in the subsurface environment.

3. AVAILABILITY AND COST OF EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

1. Standard Pricing Procedures for Wireline Logging

Standard pricing procedures for wireline logging, which are determined primarily by the demand for such services in petroleum exploration and production, include a one-time set up charge per location plus a depth and operation charge for each service provided. There is also a charge for interpretation or analysis of the data.

The depth and operations charges include a minimum price based on 1000 feet or 1000 feet, and there would be an additional charge per foot of data obtained beyond the minimum. An example of minimum charges follows:

Set up charge		\$ 1065
First log:	Depth	760
	Operation	760
Second log:	Depth	600
	Operation	600
TOTAL (exclusive of tax)		<hr/> \$ 3785

A variety of extra charges might apply in a particular case. There are extra charges for work in remote locations and for any other out-of-the-ordinary difficulties.

2. Equipment and Services for Gamma-Ray Logging with High-Resolution Detectors

The major wireline-logging service companies have not included logging with high-resolution detectors among the services provided to the petroleum industry. Schlumberger has been doing research on the applications for such detectors, and we have been told (but we have not confirmed) that Schlumberger has several logging sondes with high-resolution detectors in operation for mineral-exploration applications in Canada.

Greenspan, Inc. of Houston, Texas has built a radionuclide logging system that includes a high-resolution detector and a unique device for cooling the detector with liquid nitrogen. The company will provide all the hardware and software necessary for operation of the logging system, including truck and cable, but does not provide a logging service. One such system has been built for DOE work at the Hanford site and is owned by Westinghouse. We understand the cost of such a system to be roughly one-quarter million dollars, but we also understand that a system for work in very shallow holes could be provided at a considerably lower cost.

Radiation Data (formerly PGT Geophysical Services Division), which has a regional office in San Antonio, Texas, provides a logging service in which a cryogenically cooled germanium detector is used with a complete analytical system that includes a 4000-channel analyser downhole. The equipment is designed for and primarily used for uranium logging, but the system can be used to acquire complete 4000-channel pulse-height spectra. A ^{252}Cf neutron source can be used with the detector to analyse for iron, hydrogen, silicon, chlorine, sulfur, calcium and a few other elements on the basis of detection of prompt gamma rays produced by thermal-neutron capture and by inelastic scattering. Logging charges are time-related (not by the foot). Generally, for a one-week trial the charge would be between \$2500 and \$3000 per day, which would include all expenses for the two-person crew, but there would be in addition a mobilization charge of \$2.50 per mile for moving the truck from Texas to the logging site and for the return to Texas. Service would be available on reasonably short notice, since the uranium industry is currently in a depressed state.

EG&G ORTEC manufactures a shallow-hole probe equipped with a high-resolution detector, cooled by liquid nitrogen, in which the only down-hole electronics are a preamplifier and high-voltage filter with high-voltage cutoff protection. The device is intended for high-resolution spectroscopy at depths not more than 100 feet and having a minimum inside diameter of 3 inches.

Smith and others (1988), of Kaman Instrumentation Corporation, Colorado Springs, Colorado, have recently described small neutron generators that can be used in boreholes with inside diameters as small as two inches. These devices, small accelerators that produce neutrons by a nuclear fusion reaction between deuterium and tritium, have been available for several years for integration into logging probes. Gearhart

dustries, Inc. of Forth Worth, Texas manufactures neutron generators that operate on the same principle (Stromswold and others, 1989). We do not have any information on the cost of such devices.

3. Facilities for Calibration

The American Petroleum Institute has maintained for 30 years a facility at the University of Houston for calibration of gamma-ray logging instruments and instruments for neutron porosity logging. More recently, a special facility for calibration of gamma-ray **spectral** logging devices has been added (Tittle, 1989).

Arnold and Butler (1988) have recently described logging calibration technology and facilities. The U.S. Geological Survey has been active in calibration of devices suitable for mineral exploration (Mikesell and others, 1986) and for hydrological applications (Hodges, 1988). The calibration procedures and facilities that have been used by the Geological Survey are more likely to be appropriate for the shallow-borehole work that might be useful in environmental-monitoring applications than would be the API facilities.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

This study was stimulated by the interest of Southern Company Services staff in several potentially beneficial applications of nuclear borehole logging. Information was requested for the following applications:

- (1) exploring for mineral deposits such as coal and limestone;
- (2) distinguishing between fresh and brackish groundwater near facilities;
- (3) monitoring for groundwater pollutants associated with coal piles, ash and other solid wastes, and wastewater;
- (4) monitoring for radionuclides of power-plant origin, as distinct from naturally occurring radionuclides.

Benefits anticipated from applying this technique include opportunities for collecting real-time information, monitoring continuously, and viewing large subsurface regions at lower cost than by core analyses. It was recognized that such applications would have to be selected carefully because this type of logging requires complex data analysis and is expensive.

The completed literature survey found sufficient information for all four topics to provide decision-making guidance. We have presented the state of the art in the preceding sections, and have given references for descriptions of these techniques as well as specific systems, measurements, and data analyses. Of particular interest are recent applications of high-purity germanium detectors with thirty-fold better resolution than older sodium iodide scintillation detectors, and of an *in-situ* Cherenkov radiation detector for energetic beta particles from radionuclides in groundwater.

With this information at hand, one needs to determine case by case whether any of the measurement techniques is feasible and practicable for a specific substance at the concentration of interest in the soil matrix under study. Feasibility is determined by examining the pertinent parameters for detection and analysis systems that are available or may be constructed. These parameters define the detection limits and measurement

uncertainty as functions of concentration for the substance of interest and interfering material, operational aspects of the system such as travel rate and counting period, and data analysis algorithms. Some of this information is in the cited publications, but parameters for many substances and conditions will have to be calculated or estimated.

The first step in this process is to identify specific sites and substances as test cases, and to select a logging system, operational parameters, and data analysis programs for reference calculations. Soil and system characteristics will determine whether data of sufficient sensitivity and precision can be generated. This information can be derived for the generic situation, but is far more appropriate when obtained from site-derived — *i.e.*, core sample — data and from logging system tests at comparable sites. This evaluation may conclude that the logging system is suitable, or is insufficiently sensitive, or should be reevaluated under revised operational parameters.

If nuclear borehole logging is predicted to be feasible for the test site, further efforts should then be devoted to confirming the prediction, estimating the cost of the logging program, selecting a suitable system, and comparing the cost, effort, and resulting information to alternative measurement programs. The most direct confirmatory effort would be a brief logging test at selected boreholes. A contractor may provide a calibrated detection system, or a system may be developed in-house with appropriate intercalibration and quality control. Comparisons with core samples are useful to confirm the calibration and examine the impact of matrix nonuniformity. Ancillary characterization of the soil matrix with various non-nuclear borehole logs may be desirable to adjust the computational model for site conditions.

This step-wise approach should assure that nuclear borehole logging has a reasonable chance of success and is cost-effective. Under conditions for which this technique appears to be only marginally useful, the approach may suggest how research and development efforts could yield improvements. Finally, where applications are prevented by insufficient sensitivity or serious interferences, the approach avoids wasteful commitment of funds and efforts.

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6. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

6. Instrumentation

6.1. Nuclear logging tools

deken, L. L., Smith, H. D., Jr., Arnold, D. M. and Robbins, C. A., Natural gamma ray spectroscopy applied to borehole measurement, *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 35, 822-826, 1988.

ABSTRACT

This paper describes current techniques for performing natural gamma ray spectroscopy measurements in borehole environments. The data were obtained using the system known as the Compensated Spectral Natural Gamma tool which uses the complete energy spectrum to provide information on the borehole environment in addition to concentrations of potassium (K), uranium (U) and thorium (Th) in the formation. Elemental concentrations are estimated from count rates in thirteen selected energy ranges (windows) using the method of weighted-least-squares which incorporates real-time compensation for borehole effects. This is accomplished by using an attenuation model which accounts for count rate reduction and spectral shape changes due to borehole absorption and scattering. The use of a low atomic number toolcase allows gamma rays in the low energy, photoelectrically sensitive part of the spectrum to be transmitted to the detector. The system gain stabilizer operates in a coincidence mode so that the formation gammas incident on the detector can be separated from those which originate in the ^{241}Am calibration source. This low energy data is processed into ratios of Compton and photoelectric window count rates. The ratio in uncased holes is optimized to provide qualitative indications of lithology and changes in lithology. A similar ratio in cased wells provides diagnostic information regarding the condition of the steel tubulars in the borehole. Two examples demonstrate the presentation of the logs and the quality of the results.

COMMENTS

This paper shows the sensitivity of a large detector for trace amounts of Th and U and indicates how compensation for variability in lithology or casing can permit accurate measurement of these elements and of potassium at a logging speed of 10-12 feet per minute. The paper has information on how the instrument is stabilized and calibrated and how a "quality log" is obtained to ensure the accuracy of the response and to provide estimates of the uncertainty of the measurements. [JMW]

rsen, I. L., Chiles, M. M., and Miller, C., Development and fabrication of an *in situ* Cherenkov radiation detector, *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research*, A279, 665-667, 1989.

ABSTRACT

A detector has been developed for field surveillance of radioactivity in groundwater wells that are 7.6 cm in diameter or larger, but it can be adapted to on-line monitoring of industrial waste effluents and municipal water treatment plants, as well as facilities that process chemical and nuclear wastes. The detector utilizes the principle of direct Cherenkov radiation counting of energetic betas and gamma-rays in an aqueous medium. For ^{90}Y in equilibrium with its parent ^{90}Sr , the response of the detector was linear with increased concentrations. The estimated detection limit for ^{90}Y supported by the parent ^{90}Sr is 1 pCi/ml for a 1000 s counting interval.

COMMENTS

The method has little capability for distinguishing among different sources of energetic betas that might be present in subsurface waters. The authors do not address the question of why one might expect ^{90}Y to be in equilibrium with its parent in subsurface waters; it seems likely that yttrium would be rather quickly adsorbed on solid surfaces underground, so it is not clear that the method would be useful to measure levels of ^{90}Sr in subsurface water. [JMW]

omswold, D.C., Mills, W.R., Wilson, R.D., and Cook, T.K., Formation porosity measurement using epithermal neutron lifetime. *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 36, 1210-1214, 1989.

ABSTRACT

A logging tool for in-situ measurement of earth formation porosity using epithermal neutron lifetime has been constructed and tested. A 14-Mev neutron generator in the tool emits pulses of neutrons and a Gd-covered ^3He counter detects neutrons returning from the formation as a function of time following the emission pulse. Counts are accumulated in 200 1- s-wide channels for repeated pulses of the source. Tests of the logging tool in formation models of known porosity and in oil wells indicate superior porosity sensitivity and decreased lithology (rock type) dependence compared to methods using steady-state sources. Computer modeling using the time-dependent Monte Carlo Neutron Photon (MCNP) code has provided lifetimes which support and extend measurements made with the tool. MCNP results from a three-dimensional model of the logging tool eccentric in a borehole have yielded excellent agreement with actual tool measurements.

COMMENTS

The experimental logging tool is referred to as "Pulsed Neutron Porosity" (PNP). The tool has a diameter of about 9.5 cm and a length of 0.5 m. The accelerator produces 14-MeV Neutrons through the D-T reaction [$^3\text{H}(^2\text{H},n)^4\text{He}$] in a neutron generator tube manufactured by Gearhart Industries, Inc., of Fort Worth, Texas. Three ^3He detectors covered with gadolinium foil are positioned side-by-side near the surface of the logging tool that touches the borehole wall. The detectors are 1.11 x 15 cm (I.D. x L) each and they are filled with 10 atm of gas. Gd foil 0.0015 cm thick covers each detector to absorb thermal neutrons, which allows more lower energy (down to 0.15 eV) epithermal neutrons to reach the detectors. There is an excellent agreement between the experimental results and the MCNP simulation of the PNP tool. [HG]

2. Electronics and components

Ulrich, C.L., Manente, R.A., and Schweitzer, J.S., Applicability of barium fluoride and cadmium tungstate scintillation detectors for well logging, *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 36, , 1989.

ABSTRACT

Barium fluoride and cadmium tungstate have previously been used as radiation detectors in a number of applications such as high energy physics and tomographic imaging. The fundamental properties of these materials, with particular attention to properties relevant to nuclear well logging applications and their temperature dependence have been studied. Both detectors have properties that would seem to make them useful for specific logging measurements. However, using these materials requires overcoming other properties that limit their usefulness. For example, barium fluoride has a fast emission output that lends to high counting rates. The intensity of this emission, however, is very weak and, in addition, is at a wavelength not efficiently detected by common logging photomultiplier. Cadmium tungstate's high density and atomic number give excellent detection efficiency, but its application in well logging are limited by its long scintillation decay constant.

COMMENTS

The scintillation decay time of the emission component at 220 nm of barium fluoride is less than 1 nanosecond. It is much faster than that of any other known inorganic scintillator and is even faster than most plastic scintillator. In addition the intensity of this emission is totally temperature independent. The primary interest in cadmium tungstate is in its high detection efficiency which results from a high density and high atomic number. Using a Monte Carlo calculation, the detection efficiency at 2.6 MeV of cadmium tungstate is about 3.2 times of that of NaI. However because of its slow decay time constant it is limited its usage to low count-rate measurement such as natural activity. Usually low count-rate applications require large crystal size but cadmium tungstate has poor light transmission that limits crystal size for reasonable performance. Barium fluoride has an extremely fast scintillation component useful for fast count-rate measurement, but its emission (220 nm) is weak and must be separated from the slower 310 nm emission.

3]

Smith, R. C., Bush, C. H., and Reichardt, J. W., Small accelerators as neutron generators for the borehole environment, *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 35, 859-862, 1988.

ABSTRACT

Small-diameter, electrically-operated, pulsed neutron sources have many present and potential applications in borehole measurements. These include thermal neutron lifetime measurements, using pulse rates in the 1000 *pps* range, and fast neutron inelastic scattering approaches, using pulse rates in the 20,000 *pps* range. For several years a neutron generator suitable for these applications has been available for integrating into loggers' systems. Based on the D-T fusion reaction, it produces neutrons at the 10⁸ *n/s* level in a 1 11/16 in. diameter package. It operates in environments up to 150°C and up to 10,000 *psi*. Experience with this system is described including factors, such as He-3 gas buildup, that limit the life of its sealed accelerator tube. Design improvements of this system, aimed at increased environmental temperatures are also discussed. COMMENTS This is a description of a commercially available neutron generator having a diameter small enough that it could be used in two-inch boreholes. The generator is normally configured to operate at 1000 pulses per second with pulses of about 100 microsecond duration; in this mode it is useful for determining the decay time of thermal neutrons in the borehole environment, thus to distinguish chloride-bearing brines from fluids that do not capture neutrons so readily (e.g., petroleum or fresh water). The device may also be configured to produce 5-microsecond pulses at a rate of 20,000 pulses per second for the purpose of obtaining fast-neutron inelastic scattering logs; such logs can be used to obtain information about the carbon-oxygen ratio in rock, and the ratio of calcium to silicon may also be determined from thermal-neutron-capture gamma rays that are produced in the time interval between pulses. (Operation in this mode requires a larger, more sensitive, detector, configured to provide more information about energy distribution, than the detectors used for thermal-neutron decay-time logs.) It is also possible to run the generator in a continuous mode for porosity logs, although radioactive neutron sources are more commonly used for this purpose. The neutron generator [Kaman Model A-320 is the one described in the paper] is manufactured by Kaman Instrumentation Corporation of Colorado Springs, Colorado. The electronic control unit may be separated by up to four feet from the accelerator head so that detectors may be installed by the user. The lifetime of the generator is limited by the release of ³He from the tritiated accelerator target, which results in a typical tube lifetime of between 1.5 and 2 years. We do not yet have information on the cost of this neutron generator. [JMW]

3. Improvements and modifications

een, P.G., and Mwenifumbo, C.J., Interpretation of new generation geophysical logs in Canadian mineral exploration. pp. 167-178 in *Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Borehole Geophysics for Minerals, Geotechnical, and Ground Water Applications*, Minerals and Geotechnical Logging Society (c/o Southwest Research Institute), San Antonio, Texas.

STRACT

Technological advances in the past few years have led to the development of a new generation of slimhole logging tools for mineral exploration. While some are completely new developments, others are adaptations of technology from surface geological surveying or from petroleum logging. The application of these new geophysical methods requires considerable testing and development of new interpretation techniques for the different geological environments encountered in mineral exploration. At the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) one objective of research in borehole geophysics has been to investigate the application of these methods to mineral exploration in various mining areas across Canada. The GSC R & D logging system has five 'new generation' logging probes which measure thirteen different parameters:

Temperature probe: temperature, temperature gradient;
I.P. probe: I.P., resistivity, S.P.;
M.S. probe: magnetic susceptibility, conductivity;
Gamma Spectral probe: total count, K, U, and Th;
Spectral Gamma Gamma: density, heavy element assay.

Examples are described showing interpretations of the logs from various mining areas in Canada which include lead, copper, zinc, and uranium deposits.

OMMENTS

The GSC logging system is typical of modern digital data acquisition systems being built around a minicomputer. Data are recorded on 9-track magnetic tape. A digital CRT displays data, spectra, or waveforms. Data input is via modules specific to the parameters being measured. Detailed interpretations are based on post-processing of the tapes on a 16-bit Data General Corp. MV4000 computer at headquarters. The main characteristics are described as:

1. Spectral gamma ray logging tool (O.D. = 32, 38, or 50 mm). Full gamma ray spectra are recorded in 256 channels covering an energy range from approximately 0.1 to 3.0 MeV. Gamma ray counts in 10 selected energy windows. Usually the largest detector compatible with the borehole diameter is used to give max. sensitivity and logging is done at 3 m/min.

2. Induced polarization (IP/R/SP) logging tool (O.D. = 38 mm) consists of a time-main transmitter, probe electronics and the electrode arrays. There are four selectable pulse times for the current waveforms; 0.25 s, 0.5 s, 1 s, and 2 s (i.e., full waveform of 1 second to 8 seconds duration).

3. Temperature logging tool (O.D. = 25 mm) consists of a 10-cm long tip of ther-

stor beads with sensitivity of 0.0001 °C.

4. Spectral gamma gamma (SGG) logging tool (O.D. = 32, 38, or 50 mm) is essentially the spectral gamma ray logging tool in a gamma-gamma density configuration. The probe consists of a 10-millicurie gamma-ray source (Co-60, Cs-137, or Ir-192) and a scintillation detector (sodium iodide or cesium iodide).

IT>5. Magnetic susceptibility logging tool (O.D. = 42 mm x L. = 0.5 m). There are 4 sensitivity ranges on this system: 20, 80, 320 and 1280 x 10⁻³ S.I. units, with the highest setting giving a measurement resolution of approximately 0.005 x 10⁻³ S.I. units. Ten samples are illustrated in the paper. [HG]

2. Interpretation

2.1. Inversion of nuclear spectral data

artzog, R., Colson, L., Seeman, B., O'Brien, M., Scott, H., McKeon, D., Wraight, P., Grau, J., Ellis, D., Schweitzer, J., and Herron, M., Geochemical logging with spectrometry tools, *Society of Petroleum Engineers, 62nd Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition*, Dallas, TX, September 27-30, 1987, pp. 447-460.

ABSTRACT

A Geochemical Logging Tool (GLT)* string, measuring natural, activation, and prompt neutron capture gamma rays, produces logs of the most abundant and a few trace organic element concentrations. Direct measurements of Al concentrations are provided. A geochemically based closure model is used to derive Si, Ca, Fe, S, Gd, and Ti concentrations. The only significant spectroscopically undetermined element, Mg, is inferred by comparing measured to derived photoelectric factor. Analysis algorithms, demonstrations of accuracy and precision, and applications of geochemically derived information properties are discussed.

COMMENTS

This is one of several recent papers that describe a recently developed logging tool that has a considerably better capability for distinguishing among major elements in subsurface rocks than do the devices commonly used earlier in well logging in the petroleum industry. Because the device is physically quite long and because it has been optimized for application in the petroleum industry where the logging rate must be large and where the list of elements of interest is limited, the importance of this paper will be primarily for the perspective that it gives on what can be done to obtain a maximum amount of information from somewhat limited data when there is a strong economic incentive to obtain the information. [JMW]

uman, C. H., Salaita, G. N., and Mahdavi, M., Neutron scattering for porosity determination. *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 35, 812-816, 1988.

o abstract]

COMMENTS

This paper focuses on the way in which scattered neutrons (epithermal and thermal) may be detected, on the physics of scattering of epithermal neutrons and of the absorption and scattering of thermal neutrons, and on the interpretation of neutron measurements in respect to the amount and character of subsurface fluids in rock pores. Although the paper is primarily about neutron measurement and the interpretation of the neutron logs, the authors also give brief consideration to other logging techniques (acoustic and gamma-ray techniques) that relate to formation porosity. [JMW]

Shweitzer, J. S. and Ellis, D. V., Review of nuclear techniques in subsurface geology. *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 35, 800-805, 1988.

ABSTRACT

Nuclear techniques have assumed a major role in obtaining data on geological data. These techniques require detailed analysis to understand the meaning of the measurements because of the extended region of the interactions and the complications produced by the borehole environment. In addition, the nuclear parameters that are measured must be related to the geological parameters that are of interest. Types of measurements that can be performed, their relationship to geological parameters, limitations imposed by the need to make measurements in extended media under hostile conditions, and methods to analyse the measurements are presented.

COMMENTS

This paper is a review of the ways in which spectral analysis of scattered gamma rays, of scattered neutrons, and of natural and neutron-induced gamma radiation may be interpreted to provide information about physical properties and composition of subsurface formations. This is perhaps the best available recent paper that deals with all of the kinds of information that may be obtained from nuclear spectra. It includes an example of a spectrum of high-energy capture gamma rays obtained with a high-resolution detector, which suggests a capability to measure Ni, Co, and Cr, as well as the major elements in rock that may be determined with detectors of lower resolution. (In this case, however, Ni, Co, and Cr, were constituents of the cryostat that contained the Ge detector.)
[WJ]

2.2. Algorithms and models

Robson, L.A., A matched filter data smoothing algorithm. *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 36, , 1989.

ABSTRACT

An efficient spatial smoothing algorithm for filtering data while preserving spatial detail is obtained using the system (impulse response) function of the sensor. In contrast to the normal procedure for determining the filter coefficients for an arbitrary system function, this technique does not use Fourier transforms. The spatial filtering coefficients are obtained analytically for the frequently applicable Gaussian system function. The efficiency of this procedure is illustrated by filtering simulation, logs and spectral data. For real-time smoothing of nuclear log data, a filter length of 5 times the vertical resolution is required.

3. Calibration

le, C. W., Model wells for nuclear well logging. *Nuclear Geophysics*, 3, 193-202, 1989.

ABSTRACT

Considerations needed in the design and construction of model wells for nuclear log calibration are covered, with special attention to neutron porosity logging and total γ -ray logging. Pulsed neutron decay-time and spectral γ -ray logging are discussed briefly.

The API calibration facility for nuclear logs is a good starting point for similar or expanded facilities. A few of its shortcomings are mentioned; they are minor. The problem of fluid saturation is emphasized. Attention is given to models made of consolidated rock and those containing unconsolidated material such as Ottawa sand. Needed precautions are listed. A similarity method is presented for estimating the porosity index of formations that are not fully saturated.

COMMENTS

This recently published paper contains a brief introduction to the various procedures that are used for calibration of nuclear well-logging instruments and then has a description of the API gamma-ray and neutron pits that have been available at the University of Houston since 1959 for calibration of logging tools that are used in the petroleum industry. There is also a brief description of a recently built facility (also at the University of Houston) for calibration of natural spectral γ -ray tools for measurement of potassium, uranium, and thorium. Following these descriptions is a listing of several other organizations that have calibration facilities that are available for public use. The last section of the paper is a discussion of factors that are important in the design of a neutron porosity calibration facility.

The emphasis of this paper is on calibration of the tools that are most important in nuclear well-logging in the petroleum industry, in test pits that more closely resemble oil wells than the smaller-diameter wells encountered in mineral exploration and environmental-monitoring activities. The paper has little information on the new spectral gamma-ray calibration facility at Houston and there is no information that pertains directly to calibration of tools for spectral measurement of gamma radiation induced by neutrons. It is noted that since calibration of tools for spectral logging of neutron-induced gamma rays will depend strongly on information about rock porosity and saturation, the calibration procedures addressed in this paper are important for any logging activity that would use gamma-ray spectral information to determine elemental abundances in the subsurface. [W]

Applications

1 Elemental analysis

Bourayne, Armand M., High resolution spectroscopy for direct uranium ore grade assay in exploration, development and production, pp. 227-240 in *Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Borehole Geophysics for Minerals, Geotechnical, and Ground Water Applications*, Minerals and Geotechnical Logging Society (c/o Southwest Research Institute), San Antonio, Texas.

STRACT

A conventional gross gamma ray logging detects and measures Bismuth 214 and uses this to infer the uranium ore grade from the measured bismuth concentration. In an equilibrium orebody it is adequate, but disequilibrium leads to large errors, and disequilibrium is the rule not the exception. COGEMA has developed new system for *in situ* analysis of uranium orebodies. COGEMA's probe is capable of quantitative analysis of uranium-bearing ores containing as little as 100 ppm of uranium, even in ores subject to geochemical disequilibrium. The main parts of the system consists of a microcomputer which drives all the operations and processes data, a main cabinet for nuclear instrumentation, and a control-panel to move the probe in the geological formation inside a borehole. At any given depth the COGEMA tool assays a spherical volume that penetrates the formation a distance of about 4 inches from the borehole wall. The probe measures a 1.001 MeV gamma ray emitted by protactinium 234 very promptly (a 24 day half life) after the decay of U-238. The logging speed is computer controlled, between 6 to 60 feet per hour. It is much faster to measure a rich uranium deposit than to measure a low grade deposit with the same precision. Where more precise measurement is required longer counting periods are used.

OMMENTS

This paper contains a description of a process developed by COGEMA (Compagnie Generale des Matieres Nucleaires) for *in situ* analysis for uranium in subsurface rock, based on high-resolution gamma-ray spectrometry. Emphasis is on the use of a high-resolution probe (HP Ge) to measure the 1.001 MeV gamma radiation from ^{234m}Pa as a surrogate for ^{238}U . The process is said to provide quantitative analysis of uranium-bearing ores containing as little as 100 ppm uranium. Since the author had no interest in uranium as a trace constituent of rock, there is no direct information on the sensitivity of the process for trace amounts of uranium. By implication, trace amounts of uranium (via ^{234m}Pa) and of the strong-gamma emitting descendents of uranium and thorium could be measured if long counting times are permissible, and ^{40}K could be measured by detection of its 1.461 MeV gamma ray. The process is intended to measure gamma radiation from subsurface rock; one would not expect it to be useful for measurement of natural radioactivity in subsurface water, which normally would be at much lower levels than the radioactivity in the rock. [JMW]

The COGEMA system has several advantages: direct quantitative readout of uranium content is unaffected by disequilibrium and other geological parameters; it is much less sensitive to nonuniformities in the formation than coring. It gives an accurate uranium assay in real time, avoiding time delay, the expense and the likelihood of errors that occur with coring. Finally it eliminates gaps in the measurements due to lost core sections. [HG]

apman, S., Colson, J. L., Flaum, C., Hertzog, R. C., Pirie, G., Scott, H., La Vigne, J., Quirein J., Everett, B., Herron, M. M., Schweitzer, J. S., and Wendlandt, R., Geochemical well logging in early evolutionary stage, *Offshore*, May 1989, 82-89.

o abstract]

OMMENTS

This paper contains a description of the ways in which elemental analysis by three commercial logging tools (K, Th, and U by natural gamma-ray spectrometry; H, Si, S, Cl, and Fe by spectrometry of gamma rays induced by pulsed 14-MeV neutrons; and Al by neutron activation) can be used to calculate the proportions of the several clay minerals and other minerals that are commonly present in sediments. There is a discussion of some indirect applications of such mineralogical data that are important in the petroleum industry. The paper ends with a box having descriptions of specific applications of measurements of each of these ten elements plus Ti and the rare earths Gd and Sm and some information about how the elements are measured and on the accuracy of the measurements. [JMW]

Kesell, J. L., and Senftle, F. E., Borehole neutron activation: The rare earths, *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 35, 833-838, 1988.

STRACT

Neutron-induced borehole gamma-ray spectroscopy has been widely used as a geophysical exploration technique by the petroleum industry, but its use for mineral exploration is not as common. Nuclear methods offer the mining geologist techniques for mineral exploration, for determining stratigraphy and bed correlations, for mapping ore deposits, and for studying mineral concentration gradients. High-resolution detectors are essential for mineral exploration, and by using them an analysis of the major element concentrations in a borehole can usually be made. A number of economically important elements can be detected at typical ore-grade concentrations using this method. Because of the new application of the rare-earth elements to high-temperature superconductors, these elements are examined in detail as an example of how nuclear techniques can assist the mining geologist.

COMMENTS

This paper is particularly important because it emphasizes application of a well-known technique outside the petroleum industry (i.e., to mineral exploration) and because it emphasizes the importance of high-resolution gamma-ray detectors in such an application. Although the paper focuses on the application of neutron activation to the rare-earth elements, there is an important general portion of the paper that deals with the broad range of potential applications of the technique. There is in particular a list of some twenty elements that are amenable to detection and quantitative measurement by borehole neutron activation. [JMW]

uman, C. H., Test of a high-resolution spectroscopy logging tool to measure chlorine in a low-salinity reservoir, *SPE Formation Evaluation*, March 1988, pp. 40-46.

STRACT

A series of tests was conducted to evaluate the usefulness of neutron-induced gamma spectra recorded by a detector cooled to the temperature of liquid nitrogen. These tests were conducted in an oil well that had been evaluated with core and other logging techniques. Results showed that measurements of carbon abundance were not accurate enough to enable useful estimates of oil abundance, but measurements of chlorine abundance could be used to estimate brine saturation if data were accumulated long enough.

The commercial logging equipment tested consisted of two different tools that combined a high-resolution detector with both chemical and 14-MeV pulsed neutron sources. Methods were developed to process and display the 4,000-channel spectra recorded. Use of the spectral data to measure chlorine abundance was developed by recording spectra at depths opposite formations containing saline and fresh water. Effects of brine in the casing were evaluated by recording spectra before and after brine in the casing was displaced by fresh water.

Predicted statistical uncertainty and variations between repeat runs indicated that a measurement of chlorine abundance that discriminates between 30 and 50 saturation units (s.u.) of oil requires 1-hour station measurements for 11,000-ppm brine. Chlorine abundances calculated from the spectral data were consistent with saturations measured from cores and openhole logs. Spectra of gamma rays from inelastic scattering of neutrons produced by a pulsed source had no detectable carbon peaks.

OMMENTS

This report is an investigation of the use of a high-resolution tool to reflect chlorine abundance in a formation having brine fresh enough to preclude use of pulsed neutron capture (PNC) logs. The tool used for the test was developed by Princeton Geophysical Services Inc. The tool was modified by adding one of two neutron sources: 1) a Californium-252 (^{252}Cf) source that emits relatively low-energy neutrons continuously (the chemical source), and 2) a 14-Mev pulsed source (the pulsed source). Both versions of the tool were modified by adding a casing collar locator which made it possible to identify accurately the depth of formation corresponding to the spectra recorded. The gamma rays are superimposed on a continuous background radiation from capture of thermal neutrons.

Statistical uncertainty requires a data accumulation period of one hour to distinguish saturation of 30 and 50 s.u. when water salinity is as low as 1000 ppm. However seven minutes suffices for reservoirs having the same porosity but brine with the salinity of seawater. Quantitative measurement requires the displacement of brine from casing or use of a fluid excluder which was not adequately evaluated in the test. High-resolution spectra of gamma rays from inelastic scattering of 14-MeV neutrons showed no obvious evidence of peaks resulting from carbon for the condition tested. [HG]

hweitzer, J. S., Hertzog, R. C., and Soran, P. D., Nuclear data for geophysical spectroscopic logging, *Nuclear Geophysics*, 1, 213-225, 1987

STRACT

Geochemical analysis of subsurface formations can provide significant information about the minerals and the fluids contained in the rock. While most previous work has been based on the analyses of cores, significant advances have been made to provide such analyses from gamma-ray spectroscopy data obtained in a borehole. Previous work on geophysical spectroscopic measurements in a well has largely concentrated on qualitative analysis or the detection of ore-grade minerals. A nuclear geochemical analysis, however, requires the quantitative measurement of elemental concentrations of trace elements, as well as major elements in widely varying concentrations. This requirement places extreme demands on the quality of the spectroscopic measurements, data rates, and relating observed gamma-ray intensities to the original elemental concentration. The relationship between gamma-ray intensities and elemental concentration is critically dependent on the specific reaction cross sections and their uncertainties. The elements of highest priority for subsurface geochemical analysis are considered with respect to the importance of competing reactions and the neutron energy regions that are most significant.

OMMENTS

This paper is quite important because it deals specifically with the neutron-induced reactions that may be detected by high-resolution gamma-ray spectrometry for the purpose of determining concentrations of elements in subsurface materials. The authors point out important advantages and disadvantages of various kinds of neutron sources. A ²⁵²Cf source has the great advantage over neutron generators that its relatively low-energy neutrons will generate a minimum of nuclear reactions that would interfere with the determination of individual elements. However, such a source is limited in intensity and cannot be pulsed. The advantages and disadvantages of a 14-Mev neutron generator are the converse.

The main emphasis of the paper is on the importance of a knowledge of neutron reaction cross sections for a wide range of neutron-induced reactions that may occur in subsurface materials. The cross sections must be known over the entire range of energy of the neutrons, and thus more data are needed in the case of high-energy neutrons from generators. The cross sections must be known for all of the elements that are present in sufficient quantity in the subsurface materials to interact significantly with the neutrons. Knowledge of the uncertainties in the cross sections is essential in determining the uncertainties in converting spectrometry data to elemental concentrations. Commonly, uncertainties in cross sections must be compounded in such a way that no satisfactory estimate of an element's concentration may be made. [JMW]

2. Mineralogical composition and physical properties of rock

is, Darwin V., Gamma ray scattering measurements for density and lithology determination. *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 35, 806-811, 1989.

ABSTRACT

A common approach to determining the *in situ* bulk density of subsurface formations is to use gamma ray scattering devices. These well logging tools consist of a source of gamma rays and multiple detectors, mounted in an assembly which is kept in mechanical contact with the borehole wall during the moving measurement. Compton scattering is exploited for formation density information while analysis of the photoelectric absorption of multiply-scattered gamma rays provides the average atomic number of the scattering formation.

The parameters which control the device performance, constrained by operation in the borehole, are examined. A technique of combining measurements from several detectors allows estimation of bulk density over a range of environmental conditions. The photoelectric absorption measurement is reviewed to indicate its relationship to formation lithology type. Borehole factors which may compromise both measurements are related to tool design parameters and fundamental physical limitations.

ertl, W. H., and Chilingar, G. V., Total organic carbon content determined from well logs, *SPE Formation Evaluation*, June 1988, pp. 407-419.

SUMMARY

Total organic-carbon (TOC) content present in potential source rocks significantly affects the response of various well logs. This paper discusses and illustrates well-log anomalies caused by TOC as observed on various wireline measurements, including resistivity (or conductivity), acoustic, nuclear (density and neutron), gamma ray, natural gamma ray spectra, and pulsed neutron [sigma and carbon/oxygen (C/O) ratio].

Field examples of these well-log responses in open and/or closed wellbores are presented from several countries. Several correlations between TOC and individual and/or combinations of various logging responses are also reviewed.

COMMENTS

This paper deals with the way in which organic carbon in subsurface rocks affects a variety of nuclear and non-nuclear well logs. Its particular importance in respect to this subject may be that it focuses on the organic carbon in potential source rocks rather than potential production zones. Thus the emphasis is on detection of organic carbon in relatively low concentrations, which may relate more closely to some of the potential applications outside the petroleum industry than do most papers dealing with hydrocarbon detection. [JMW]

This paper reviewed the field examples of the well-log responses in open and/or closed wellbores from several countries. Several correlations between TOC and individual and/or combinations of various logging responses are also reviewed. For example: highly

radioactive, black, organic-rich and gaseous shales exhibit a highly oil-saturated matrix, it is characterized by low values of K and Th , but excessively high bismuth-214. (K , Th and Bi can be measured by natural gamma-ray spectra). Inasmuch as TOC content is electrically nonconductive, high TOC content can increase the resistivity of the host rock, however resistivity is not a good TOC indicator. From the pulsed-neutron capture logs, information can be related to the relative abundance of particular elements, e.g., C, O, and Si. The multiparameter spectroscopy instrument, i.e., MSI-C/O logging instrument, is mentioned. Low density related to high TOC content. TOC content tends to increase apparent interval transit time t value which is measured by acoustic logs. All the samples reviewed illustrate empirical correlations between TOC content and single and/or combinations of wireline logging parameters. [HG]

Erson, M. M., Future applications of elemental concentrations from geophysical logging, *Nuclear Geophysics*, 1, 197-211, 1987.

STRACT

Measurements of elemental concentrations currently play a very small role in subsurface formation evaluation in the petroleum industry. However, new advances in data interpretation combined with new measurement capabilities indicate that the interest in elemental concentration measurements will expand rapidly in the future. Applications can be divided conveniently into two general classes relating to the fluids and to the solids. In the case of fluids, the major applications are the direct detection of hydrocarbons and of soluble impurities in subsurface water. These impurities not only interfere with the detection of hydrocarbons by geophysical techniques, but they may also influence the production techniques to be used. New applications have been developed for the use of organic chemical data in evaluating subsurface solids. These include a new normative analysis which permits a quantitative estimation of the minerals which make up the rock. The element-derived mineralogy permits a significantly enhanced rock description beyond that now available. In addition, the new techniques have applications in such areas as the interpretation of depositional environment and diagenesis, and the estimation of such parameters as cation exchange capacity, grain size, and even permeability. Elements are ranked in order of value to the petroleum industry according to these potential applications in order to speed the necessary nuclear measurements to ensure high quality nuclear geochemical data.

MMMENTS

This paper deals with the roles that determination of elemental concentrations in subsurface rock (for which there is an existing technology for certain elements) and in subsurface fluids (for which the technology has not been developed) should play in the petroleum industry in the future. Applications are classified as direct (which includes establishing the mineralogy of subsurface formations), indirect, and inferred; many of these applications would not be of interest outside the petroleum industry. The author gives an element-by-element listing of priorities for elemental measurement in the petroleum industry. This listing emphasizes how elemental abundance measurements would be made, not how they could be made. [JMW]

yal, J. R., and Christoffel, D. A., Coal quality from geophysical logs: Southland lignite region, New Zealand, *The Log Analyst*, September-October 1989, 343-349.

STRACT

Density, gamma-ray, neutron, sonic, caliper, resistance, self-potential, and focused-resistivity logging were carried out for lignite coal evaluation in the Southland lignite region. The most useful logs for identification and location of the coalseams were density and gamma-ray. Ash, moisture, volatile-matter, and fixed-carbon content of the cored coal samples obtained by the chemical analysis were correlated with the geophysical log data. Moisture (%) showed strong positive correlations with the density and gamma-ray logs. Volatile matter (%) showed strong negative correlation with the density log and positive correlation with the sonic log. Volatile matter (%) and fixed carbon (%) showed negative correlations with the gamma-ray, density, and sonic logs. Stepwise multiple-regression method was used for developing empirical relationship between coal quality and geophysical logs. These relationships were very useful for prediction of coal quality with a fair degree of accuracy (mostly within $\pm 1\%$).

OMMENTS

This recently written article shows the power of well-logging techniques to distinguish coal (including lignite) formations from ordinary sedimentary rocks as well as to provide information about the quality of the coal. The article includes references to earlier work on the application of geophysical logs specifically to coal exploration in various parts of the world. The density and natural gamma-ray logs are the most useful of several kinds of logs for the purpose of evaluation of coal quality. [JMW]

This article emphasized the generalized empirical relationships obtained for coal-quality estimation with the help of geophysical logs in the Southland lignite region. The geophysical variables that met 5% significance level are used in the prediction models. The coal-quality model is influenced by the different geological/depositional environments between the marine and non-marine lignites. No well-logging tools were described in the paper. [HG]

3. Character of subsurface fluids

Bernaw, I.R. and Richter, A.P., A nuclear salt-in-crude monitor. *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 36, , 1989,

STRACT

Texaco has developed a nuclear salt-in-crude monitor which continuously measures salt content of a flowing stream of crude oil. The monitor consists of two parts: a counting chamber and an instrument console. The counting chamber is a length of 24-in diameter pipe containing a long-life neutron source and a gamma ray detector, both of which are mounted in cross pipes so that there is no direct contact with the flowing crude. The gamma ray detector is electrically connected to the instrument console which is located in a control room. The console contains necessary instrumentation to process the data, compute the salt concentration and provide a continuous printed record of the salt concentration in pounds per thousand barrels (PTB).

OMMENTS

This nuclear salt-in-crude monitor is developed for monitoring of chlorine content in all quantities with good accuracy, 10 PTB \pm 2 PTB (approximately 20 \pm 4 ppm chlorine). Sulfur content of less than 1% by weight and greater can also be monitored. The system has proven to be technically sound in the field environment. [HG]

4. Recent developments

fford, J.E., Flaym, C., and Gilchrist, W.A., Jr., Enhanced resolution processing of compensated neutron logs. *SPE Formation Evaluation*, June 1989.

STRACT

Compensated neutron logging (CNL) uses a two-detector system that was developed to reduce borehole effects. The ratio of counting rates from the detectors provides a basic tool response from which a porosity index is obtained. Each detector in this system has a different vertical resolution because of its spacing. A new method of processing the counting rates has been developed to enhance the vertical resolution capabilities of the neutron porosity index by exploiting the better vertical resolution of the far detector. Because no additional or new measurements are required, data from older logs can easily be re-evaluated.

OMMENTS

A new method to process the CNL counting rates is introduced in the paper. The new method has been developed to enhance the vertical resolution of the porosity index. The results for data sampled at 6-in. intervals is comparable to the 1-ft. vertical resolution density, MicroSFL's, and EPT logs. The typical vertical resolution from ratio processing is approximately 2 ft. The statistical precision of the high-resolution processing is superior to that of the standard ratio method. An additional parameter, alpha factor, provides information about borehole effects. Therefore the alpha factor can be used as a qualitative indicator of gas when the invasion is not deep and environmental effects are not large. [HG]

Portner, Michael L., A new resolution enhancement method for neutron porosity tools. *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 36, pp.1237-1242, 1989.

STRACT

The effectiveness of a new resolution enhancement method for compensated neutron porosity logs is illustrated. The new method is the same as conventional ratio processing except that a smaller amount of depth shifting is used. Simulated log data is used to show that this method increases the vertical resolution by a factor of two: the vertical resolution obtained with conventional processing is about 2 1/2 feet; with the new method the vertical resolution is approximately 1 foot. This method is compared with a resolution enhancement proposed by Galford et al. [see the paper listed immediately above] in which the log response is sharpened by obtaining the porosity from the near detector count rate instead of the ratio between near and far detector count rates. The new method produces similar results but is simpler to implement.

OMMENTS

The conventional processing consists of deriving the porosity from the ratio of the near and far detectors count rates. The distance between these two detectors is 6 inches. The porosity data are obtained by compensating the near detector count rate to the far detector count rate at a 6-in. depth shift. The anomalous reading at the bed boundary is eliminated, but there is also a marked decrease in vertical resolution. The new method taking a 2-inch shift improved the vertical resolution considerably and at the same time removed most of the anomalous behavior that occurs if no shift is applied. This study indicated that the vertical resolution of the porosity log is about 1 foot if a depth shift of 2 inches is used. [HG]

Reviews

rr, S. A., and Worthington, P. F., Nuclear logging techniques for hydrocarbon, mineral, and geological applications, *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 35, 794-799, 1988.

STRACT

This paper provides an overview of the role of nuclear-based logging techniques, principally in the petroleum industry, since this has been the driving force behind many of the major technological innovations in logging. The nuclear processes which provide the physical basis for logging tools are summarized together with information on the fluid/rock system which these interactions provide. Log interpretation strategy is briefly traced from its beginnings in the late 1920s to the present time to demonstrate the motivation behind these measurements. Finally, the future prospects for this developing technology, especially in the area of spectroscopy, are assessed.

MMMENTS

This brief review of nuclear well-logging techniques serves as a very good introduction to the field. It is a little more up-to-date than the much more extensive review by Snyder and Fleming (see below), and its length is quite appropriate for reading by one who is just beginning to become acquainted with the field. The last two pages of the article present the various nuclear well-logging techniques and their applications in grammatic form; this part of the article should continue to be valuable to a reader who becomes familiar with the various techniques by reading other articles that have more detailed descriptions of the techniques and their applications. [JMW]

Well logging is the engineering science of downhole measurements of physical and chemical properties of rocks and their constituent fluids. These measurements are classified as acoustic, electromagnetic or nuclear. This article briefly reviewed the history from the first well logging for electrical resistivity to the modern spectroscopy techniques. It mentioned the caliper and electrochemical self-potential log and their use in identification of permeable zones and hydrocarbons in those zones. The development of the natural gamma-ray log and then the neutron logging tool has been widely used in the petroleum industry for determination of hydrocarbons and porosity inferred from the hydrogen concentration. The contemporary nuclear logging technology can be divided into natural which measures the naturally occurring gamma radiation field, and the active logging tool, which employs a nuclear source associated with the detector(s). The most significant development is the spectroscopy capability. It varies from a simple thermal/epithermal neutron filter to full multichannel analysis of gamma ray spectra obtained with both scintillation and semiconductor detectors. The paper pointed out that future developments would include data interpretation techniques based on Monte Carlo modelling, measurement while drilling, the improvement of vertical resolution, the wireline electrochemical log, and related fields: the measurement of elemental concentrations in the formation rock/fluid, of the formation properties such as clay minerals, cation exchange capacity, grain density and porosity, and finally the formation history. [HG]

order, D. D., and Fleming D. B., Well logging - A 25-year perspective, *Geophysics*, 50, 2504-2529, 1985.

STRACT

Developments in the field of well logging over the last 25 years are reviewed. Surface and borehole instrumentation have evolved significantly, taking advantage of modern digital and analog circuits. Most open-hole petroleum well logs are now recorded digitally. Digital logs are also frequently acquired in cased-hole petroleum, mineral, and geotechnical applications. Nuclear well-log measurements have become accepted and reliable. New measurements include borehole compensated density and neutron-porosity, borehole epithermal neutron-porosity, and most recently litho-density. The neutron decay method, developed early in the 25-year period, has undergone a number of major improvements since its introduction. Probes which make spectral measurements of natural gamma-ray emission, and gamma-ray emission from neutron interactions with matter have also been developed. Resistivity measurements are now made with probes which combine three or more sensors each with different depths of investigation so that information about the borehole invasion profile can be acquired. Acoustic logging methods have experienced major developments and improvements. The compensated sonic measurement was introduced early in the period along with the cement bond logging method. Interest in measurement of shear-wave velocity has produced new direct shear-wave measurements as well as improved acoustic probes for full-waveform acoustic logging.

Other interesting or promising methods which have been developed or improved during the period include the borehole televiewer, the borehole gravimeter, and the nuclear magnetic resonance log. The digital computer provides powerful capabilities for well-log analysis both at the well site and in the office. Analysis of complex sand-shale and carbonate formations using two or more logs in a simultaneous solution of a litho-porosity model is now routine. Powerful signal processing techniques are being applied to "deconvolve" well logs, to enhance or synthesize images of the wellbore, and to estimate and extract information from full-waveform acoustic logs.

While new or improved measurements have been introduced and log analysts now have access to powerful computers and graphic work stations, understanding of the geophysical significance of the measurements lags behind the basic hardware measurement and interpretation technology.

MENTS

This extensive review of developments in well logging since 1960 emphasizes the evolution that has been brought about by the application of modern data-acquisition and data-processing techniques. The review includes a wide variety of physical techniques in addition to the nuclear logging techniques. [JMW]

I. Books

He, A. W., *Nuclear Assaying of Mining Boreholes, An Introduction. Methods in Geochemistry and Geophysics*, 21, Amsterdam, Elsevier, 344 pp.

COMMENTS

/IT>Of the many books about well logging that have appeared during the past decade, this one is the most useful source of information on the application of nuclear well-logging techniques to the measurement of radioactive species and non-radioactive elements in shallow boreholes. The first part of the book, entitled "Nuclear Physics Background," provides a well-written and nicely illustrated introduction to the properties of gamma radiation, to the nuclear properties and geochemistry of the natural gamma-ray emitters, to the detectors (including the recently developed n-type germanium detectors) and systems used for measurement of gamma rays and neutrons, and to the production of gamma radiation from non-radioactive elements by neutron irradiation.

Part II of the book is entitled "Theory and Practice of Log Analysis." Following chapters on the borehole environment and on calibration of probes for quantitative spectrometric analysis, there are individual chapters on logging (1) natural gamma radiation, (2) scattered neutron radiation, (3) prompt gamma radiation, (4) activation gamma radiation, and 5) back-scattered gamma radiation. There is also a chapter on x-ray and other logging techniques. The penultimate chapter is a review of logging techniques applied to iron ores, uranium ores, and (in considerable detail) coal. The final chapter is a description of logging probes and the elements of a logging system. It includes descriptions of two specialized probes that should prove to be of particular importance in applications of well logging to environmental monitoring — the germanium-based probe and the accelerator-source probe. An appendix has listings of sources of mineralogical and nuclear geophysical data. [JMW]